



The Amateur in You, Part 1

What have you been pondering?



Role of the ERC

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has established a world-wide communication network they call the *ERC* ([Emergency Response Communications](#)), whose purpose is to provide basic communication to gather information during times of widespread disaster. This network, while global in scope, extends down into the area, stake, and ward levels as well.

How it's organized

Under the direction of the Stake President, each stake establishes a communication plan, led by the High Councilor assigned to Welfare. He can further designate a Stake Emergency Communication Specialist to organize the communication side of the Stake Emergency Preparedness Plan. Ideally, that Stake Specialist is a licensed ham, who designates a Stake Net Manager to organize a regular stake net.

In each ward, the Bishop designates a Ward Emergency Preparedness Specialist, who establishes a Ward Communication Plan, including members who have radio gear, who can help out if the need for emergency communication arises. This radio gear is not limited to only amateur, but also includes FRS, GMRS, CB, MURS, and cell phone text messaging.

The weekly ERC net

To aid in training this army of radio communication volunteers, the Church has established a regular ERC net in many Bishops' Storehouses around the US, plus in some other countries. In Utah County, the LDS Church ERC net is organized by the [Lindon Bishops' Storehouse](#), and hosts an amateur radio net each Tuesday (except the first Tuesday) at 8:00 pm on the 147.020+ MHz (103.5 Hz tone) repeater. On the first Tuesday of each

month, the net is held on 147.020 MHz simplex. *Any person with an amateur radio license is welcome to check into that net*, but the net is organized primarily to train those with ward and stake communication callings.

During the course of each weekly net, the ERC also hosts a *training topic* that addresses one aspect of amateur communication within the ERC structure. These topics help you understand the role communication plays in disaster preparedness, and your role in using the ERC to help your family, your ward, and your stake.

The ERC in action

During an actual emergency or even a simulated incident (such as a drill), the ERC activates its net on its repeater, and invites all amateurs to check into the net, if they wish to do so. Besides communicating with your city and your ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) group, you can also communicate your well-being with the ERC, and obtain situation information from them as well.

Be sure to check in with your Block Captain, report your well-being to the City, and then check in to the ERC net in progress.

As mentioned, your stake should have a weekly net for the ham operators in your stake to check into, for training and to promote familiarity with amateur protocol. So, do you? If your stake holds a regular net, it might be listed on the [stake net website](#). If it's not, then ask your stake leaders to start one. If they don't start one, you're fully authorized to start one yourself, but call it an *Area net*, not a *Stake net*, because you won't be properly representing the LDS Church. You can see a list of things you can do, to start your own net, on the [New Ham website](#). Then, [tell us about your net!](#)